



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: MATSUDA

SERIAL NO.: 09/222,524

FILED: December 28, 1998

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GROUP: 2811

EXAMINER: Nitin Parekh

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97 (d)(2)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 (d), Applicants request consideration of the following prior art, which has recently come to Applicant's attention. The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after a final action under § 1.113. Please charge the Credit Card in the amount of \$180.00 for the Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(I) as indicated on Form PTO-2038 enclosed.

Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. These references were cited in the European Office Action dated May 17, 2001 of the European patent application. Enclosed is the European Office Action, together with the European Search Report. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

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This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56 (A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits an official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner, or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 23, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristine Stewes

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